



SAINT LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY BULLETIN

FALL 1985

The Saint Louis Audubon Society presents the opening film of the 1985-86 Wildlife Film Series on Friday, October 18, 1985 at 8:00 p.m., The Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton Road.

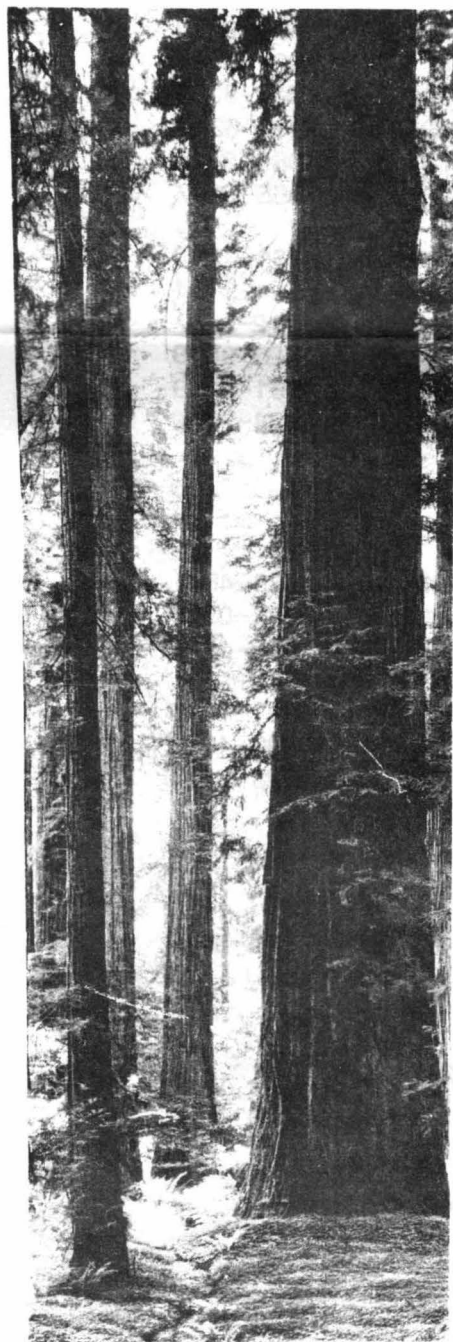
THE REDWOOD EMPIRE

The greatest empire of them all, the Redwood Empire: A unique and awesome heritage from the distant age of dinosaurs and flying reptiles, California's green cathedrals, living links to history, were already forest monarchs when Rome fell; at the time of the Vikings; the Norman Conquest; and the Magna Carta. Naturalist Al Wool has always lived in or near the Redwood Belt, filmed five-fingered ferns and inside-out flowers; coastal loons and scoters; dragonflies and hunting wasps; gophers, deer, skunk and gray fox, wildlife that shuns the silent groves, but abounds nearby. In scenes such as canvas has yet to produce, Al Wool depicts nature's realm against a backdrop of Redwood Empire majesty.



In Person Color Film Presentation by
Albert J. Wool

Albert J. Wool, graduate of Stanford University, well known as a professional lecturer and conservationist, has made special studies of natural history in relation to economics. His articles have been published by several magazines. Specializing on motion pictures about outdoor California, he personally presents his lectures to appreciative audiences throughout North America. Al Wool's programs are noteworthy for the quality of his films and a rare platform combination --scientific authority, with natural sense of humor.



SAINT LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS, 1985-86

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AUDUBON SOCIETY EDUCATION CENTER

104 Lewis Road		
Crescent, Missouri 63018	(314) 938-6123	

SAINT LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICE

2109 Briargate Lane		
St. Louis, Missouri 63122	(314) 965-8642	

SAINT LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

BIRD-FEEDING CHECK LIST

February and March 1985

Specie	<u>Week</u>							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Hawks:								
Sharp Shinned		1		1				
Kestrel	3	1	2	2				
Game Birds:								
Turkey								
Bobwhite				11				
Rock Dove	23	11	12	14	12	23	23	22
Mourning Dove	151	136	126	115	57	75	59	66
Woodpeckers:								
Common Flicker	27	12	14	20	8	9	8	9
Pileated	13	11	10	7			3	2
Red-bellied	28	24	27	26	10	13	8	12
Red-headed	1	1					1	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3		1				1	1
Hairy	13	10	10	8	8	11	10	9
Downy	59	67	54	45	25	27	28	29
Song Birds:								
Blue Jay	101	86	83	79	58	64	62	57
Crow	108	66	63	51	20	15	11	19
Titmouse	75	53	53	46	38	34	31	40
White-breasted Nuthatch	30	14	18	19	10	6	7	6
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2							
Brown Creeper	1		1	1	1			1
Winter Wren	1							
Bewick's Wren								
Carolina Wren	4	1	3	2	3	7	4	4
Mockingbird	24	21	15	17	13	18	19	21
Catbird								
Brown Thrasher	1							
Robin	13	17	31	57	75	103	83	90
Hermit Thrush								
Bluebird				1			2	2
Gold-crown Kinglet								
Ruby-crown Kinglet	1							
Cedar Waxwing	8	5	3			6		
Shrike			1	1				
Starling	233	208	161	180	92	123	76	87
Yellow-rumped Warbler				1				
House Sparrow	278	260	237	262	117	174	151	155
Eastern Meadowlark								
Red-winged Blackbird	2		5	9	10	16	12	9
Rusty Blackbird	1							

Species	Week							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Song Birds:								
Brewers Blackbird	12	1		8	2	7	6	6
Common Grackle	28	37	44	37	50	76	94	96
Cowbird					1	3	5	10
Cardinal	246	203	174	177	88	95	76	85
Evening Grosbeak								
Purple Finch	50	63	37	19	20	21	26	12
Common Redpoll		2			2			
Pine Siskin	2	2					4	5
Goldfinch	221	250	165	128	128	127	129	97
Rufous-sided Towhee						1	2	3
Dark-eyed Junco	243	247	154	134	87	97	72	73
Carolina Chickadee	93	80	69	71	44	48	37	45
Sparrows:								
Tree	48	47	53	62	10	11	8	11
Chipping	27	26	24	22				
Field	12	4		3				
Harris	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
White-crowned	10	8	5	4	2	2	5	3
White-throated	40	37	34	23	16	19	16	18
Fox	26	13	18	8	9	6	5	6
Lincoln's								
Swamp	6		6	7	2	2		
Song	19	16	12	12	10	12	17	14
Rarities:								
Green-tailed Towhee								
Red Crossbill								
White-winged Crossbill								
Pheasant								
Black-capped Chickadee	48	37	32	32	19	19	15	18
Ring Turtle Dove								
Cooper's Hawk	1		1	1				
Swainson's Thrush								
Olive-backed Thrush								
Pine Grosbeak								
Black-headed Grosbeak								
Western Meadowlark								
Bohemian Waxwing								
Savannah Sparrow								
Other:								
Red-shoulder Hawk	2	1						
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	44	46	53	57				
Eagle			1	1			2	
Pigeon	40	36	23	23				
Canada Goose			35					
Snow Goose					6			
Wood Duck			2	2			2	
Great Horned Owl		1						
Red Tailed Hawk	1	1						
Mallard Duck					2	2	2	2

March 31, 1985

**MISSING WOODPECKER BELATEDLY FOUND!
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER
(Centurus carolinus)**

Barbara Perry Lawton

If you managed to plod all the way through my recent woodpecker article in the "Saint Louis Audubon Society Bulletin," you might have noticed that one of our area species was missing. I blithely reported that we have seven woodpeckers in our area of the Mississippi River Valley, then described only six. The missing one is the red-bellied woodpecker, one of my favorites and a steady customer at suet feeders.

Other common names for the red-bellied are zebra woodpecker, zebraback, guinea sapsucker, orange sapsucker, chad, chack, chamchack and ramshuck. I've never heard any of those names myself, but they're responsibly reported in Leon Augustus Hausman's 1946 book, "Field Book of Eastern Birds."

Like our other native woodpeckers, the red-bellied has red, black and white as part of his main color scheme. Common in southeastern woodlands, the red-bellied territory runs from southeastern Minnesota, south-central Wisconsin, southern Michigan, extreme south Ontario, western New York, and Delaware, south to southern Texas, the Gulf coast and the Florida Keys to Key West.

This is the territory as given in 1957 by the American Ornithologists' Union. (The AOU is that organization which keeps changing bird names and classifications every time we get used to the old ones.) It is highly likely that the red-bellied's territory may have changed somewhat since 1957. In fact, Peterson reports that this bird now can be found in southern New England.

In the same genus and thus closely related to the red-bellied woodpecker are the golden-fronted woodpecker of southern Texas and Mexico, and the gila woodpecker of our extreme Southwest and western Mexico.

The name is a misnomer since the bird doesn't have a red belly at all. In the field, the belly appears to be a warm buff color. It is a so-called ladder-backed woodpecker with black and white tail, back and wings. The stripes of the "ladder back" are from the neck to the base of the wings, from wing shoulder to wing shoulder and on the middle tail feathers. The male has a red cap and nape while the female has a gray head and red only on the nape. Juvenals are also ladder-backed but have brown heads devoid of red.

Red-bellied woodpecker -2- Lawton

Once you learn the loud calls of the red-bellied, you will be able to tell whenever he's in the neighborhood -- he is loud. A regular visitor to suet feeders, this bird announces his presence with a raucous syllable or two. Another common call is a rapid succession of "cherr cherr cherr," as many as 12 repeats to a call.

Throughout our area, the red-bellied woodpecker can be found in woodlands, including swampy areas and bottom-land woods. It appears in towns and around farms where there are many trees. In addition to our feeder offerings of suet, the red-bellied eats ants, beetles and other insects as well as vegetable matter that includes corn and acorns plus available wild fruits.

Cavities in dead trees near the edges of woods are common nesting sites and usually are no more than 40 feet high. The entrance hole is about 1 3/4 by 2 inches. Both male and female work on the excavation and, not surprisingly, they prefer soft-wooded trees. They may adopt other woodpeckers' abandoned nests and, quite often, they are known to use the same nest for more than one year. The clutch of dull white eggs usually numbers four to five, with each egg measuring approximately 1 by 3/4 inches.

Throughout the winter, I have a single red-bellied woodpecker at the suet feeder at a time. Occasionally, in early spring, both a male and a female may visit at the same time. On one occasion, I had both red-bellied woodpeckers plus two downies and a hairy woodpecker all jostling for the suet -- an occasion worth remembering.



AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS



1985-86 SCHEDULE

Friday, October 18	The Redwood Empire	Albert J. Wool
Friday, December 6	Roger Tory Peterson's Birds of Seven Continents	Herman Kitchen
Friday, February 7	Faraway Falklands	Richard Kern
Friday, March 21	North to the Top of the World	John Wilson
Friday, April 12	Amazonia	Jerzy Grabowski

All programs will be at The Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton Road at 8:00 p.m. and are open to the public. The programs are free, but a donation will be appreciated. The cost of each program is \$735.00 and the Society is dependent on your generosity.

TREES, SHRUBS AND GROUND COVER THAT WILL ATTRACT BIRDS TO YOUR GARDEN

Name-Description-Fruiting Season

Eaten By

Birch, White or Paper
(*B. papyrifera* and other species)
Height to 100 ft.; fruit a small cone
filled with tiny seeds
August - September

Junco, blue jay, goldfinch,
titmouse, redpoll, pine
siskin, warblers

Cherry, Wild Black
(*Prunus serotina* and other spp.)
Large tree; flowers white; fruit
purple-black
June - November

84 kinds
Downy and hairy woodpeckers,
catbird, song sparrow, blue-
bird, goldfinch, robin, king-
bird, flicker, wood thrush,
bobwhite, cedar waxwing

Elm, American
(*Ulmus americana*)
Height to 120 ft.; fruit flat
green-winged seeds
March - May

9 kinds
Bobwhite, purple finch, pine
siskin, wood duck, Baltimore
oriole (nesting site)

Hackberry, Eastern
(*Celtis Occidentalis*)
Height to 120 ft.; small berrylike
fruit, purplish in color
September - October

48 kinds
Flicker, cedar waxwing,
cardinal, robin, bluebird,
brown thrasher, pheasant

Hawthorn, Cockspur
(*C. crus-galli* and other spp.)
Height to 25 ft.; long spines;
fruit dull red
October through Winter

39 kinds
Robin, bobwhite, fox sparrow,
hermit thrush, purple finch

Mountain Ash, American
(*Sorbus americana*)
Height to 30 ft.; flowers white;
fruit clustered bright red
August - March

14 kinds
Waxwings, Baltimore oriole,
brown thrasher, catbird, red-
headed woodpecker

Oak, Red
(*Quercus borealis*)
Height to 80 ft.; fruit acorn,
ripening second year
September - October

62 kinds
(Birds listed feed on both
white and red oak acorns,
known as "Mast.") Cardinal,
flicker, blue jay, downy and
hairy woodpeckers, white-
breasted nuthatch, mourning
dove, wood duck, pheasant

Oak, White
(*Quercus alba*)
Large, strong branching tree;
fruit shiny brown acorns ripening
first year
October - November

Red Cedar
 (Juniperus virginiana and other spp.)
 An evergreen, height to 60 ft. or more;
 fruit blue with a bloom
 All year

54 kinds
 Bluebird, cedar waxwing,
 flicker, cardinal, catbird,
 kingbird, chickadee, blue jay

SHRUBS, VINES AND GROUND COVER

Raspberry, Flowering
 (Rubus odoratus)
 Height to 6 ft.; flowers rose-purple;
 Fruit red
 Early summer

146 kinds
 Song sparrow, cedar waxwing,
 rose-breasted grosbeak, Balti-
 more oriole, bluebird

Elderberry, American
 (Sambucus canadensis)
 Height to 12 ft.; white fringe-like
 flowers; fruit purple in clusters
 July - September

118 kinds
 Bluebird, flicker, rose-
 breasted grosbeak, catbird,
 brown thrasher

Dogwood, Osier
 (Cornus stolonifers and other spp.)
 Height to 8 ft.; twigs red;
 fruit white
 July - September

93 kinds
 Cardinal, purple finch, robin,
 bluebird, song sparrow, downy
 woodpecker, thrashers

Catbrier
 (Smilax glauca)
 A green, thorny vine (excellent cover);
 fruit bluish black
 September - November

43 kinds
 Catbird, robin, brown
 thrasher, hermit thrush,
 cardinal

Virginia Creeper
 (Parthenocissus Quinquefolia)
 Leaves, five-parted, brilliant scarlet
 in autumn; fruit blue-black berries
 Fall and Winter

39 kinds
 Bluebird, flicker, purple
 finch, robin, scarlet tanager,
 thrushes

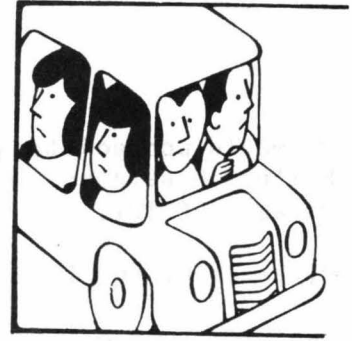
Pokeberry
 (Phytolacca americana)
 An herb to 12 ft.; stalks often cerise
 or crimson; sprays of dark purple berries
 August - September

52 kinds
 Bluebird, cardinal, catbird,
 flicker, robin, kingbird,
 mourning dove

Honeysuckle, Trumpet
 (Lonicera Sempervirens)
 A high climbing vine, smooth, oval
 leaves grow opposite each other;
 flowers orange-scarlet; fruit red
 June - September

18 kinds
 Ruby-throated hummingbird,
 robin, catbird, bobwhite,
 brown thrasher

VIBURNUMS, BARBERRIES, BUCKTHORNS, AND PRIVETS PROVIDE FOOD DURING MIGRATION AND
 WINTERING SEASONS WHILE THEIR SHRUBBERY PROVIDES ALL-YEAR COVER.



OPEN HOUSE - AUDUBON EDUCATION CENTER

September 8, Sunday, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Fall migrants, fruits and seeds. Bring lunch. Hostess: Dr. Katherine Chambers.



* * * * *

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

In 1979, a membership survey of the Saint Louis Audubon Society showed that the establishment of a local sanctuary was extremely important. In 1983, the Society inherited the Crescent, Missouri property of the late Dr. and Mrs. Charles Terry and now has a nature sanctuary. This property at 104 Lewis Road is known as the Saint Louis Audubon Society Education Center.

President Jerald L. Miller has appointed a special committee to develop a master plan. The board of directors will study the proposal and then decide how best it can be implemented. Programs will be developed that will benefit members of the Society and the community as well.

We need the input and help of each and every member of the Society. Will you be willing to help coordinate and lead nature walks, environmental classes and other events that could be planned for the Education Center? You need not be an expert.

We would like to make an appeal for any equipment that could be used in educational programs on wildlife, the natural sciences and the environment. Do you have such items you would be willing to donate?

Would you be willing to donate money to the support of educational programs for school children, senior citizens, Audubon members, and others? Would you donate money for the purchase of needed equipment?

All donations are tax deductible.

Please fill out the MEMBERSHIP SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE on the next page and mail it to Jerald L. Miller, President, Saint Louis Audubon Society, 3927 Lucas Hunt Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63121.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

We would appreciate your answering this survey and mailing it to Jerald L. Miller, President, Saint Louis Audubon Society, 3927 Lucas Hunt Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63121.

My areas of knowledge are: native birds____; native plants____;
geology____; meteorology____; photography____; drawing/painting____; other
(name)_____.

I would be willing to volunteer my time to conduct a walk or talk at the Audubon Education Center:

monthly____; special short course____; seasonally____: spring____,
summer____, fall____, winter____; special arrangement____; other_____.

I have the following items/books/other that might be of use at the Education Center. I would like to donate them for use in the educational programs.*

(list items)

I am willing to support Saint Louis Audubon Society Education Center programs and purchase of educational materials through donations of money for:

programs____; equipment____; operating expenses____; other_____.

Enclosed is my check for \$_____*

*All donations are tax deductible.

I would like more information about projects needing financial support.

Yes____ No_____.

Name

Address and zip code

Telephone number

EARLY IN FEBRUARY, I accompanied three Conservation Department employees on a survey of bald eagle nests in the west-central part of the state. Now, I've been involved in many different surveys in my 20-year tenure with the Department, but I never dreamed that someday we would be looking for bald eagle nests. As we flew over Truman Lake, all we could see was ice. The Osage arm above Osceola was free of ice, and so was the Sac River arm. The open water had attracted the eight bald eagles we counted. We located three of the four active nests in Missouri—all on Truman Lake.

It's been a long time coming, eagles nesting in our state, and the excitement is hard to describe. The confirmation of nests in Missouri has resulted in high hopes for the future. Our national bird may once again be a native of Missouri.

The nests are in tall trees near the edge of the lake. They are huge affairs, and with repairs added each year, they eventually will assume proportions almost beyond imagination. Eagles mate for life and have been known to occupy the same nest for 40 to 50 years. Imagine the size of a nest after it is used, with material added yearly, for 40 years.

Much effort has gone into restoration of the bald eagle. Bans on harmful pesticides and strict protection are a result of public demands and support. Almost anything can be accomplished when the people recognize a need and demonstrate their support.

In his 1923 book *Birds, Their Photographs and Home Life*, A.H. Cordier describes the need to protect the eagle from being hunted by man, not recognizing then what destruction would be wrought by chemicals. Cordier says: "While hunting the Kodiak brown bear along the shore of Kodiak Island, I saw hundreds of bald eagles. Many were perched in dead trees that, from a distance, looked like a giant snowball bush with blooming flowers all over it. Unfortunately, a bounty has been placed on the scalps of bald eagles and before long flocks of them will be a sight of the past. In Alaska, especially, this asset of the country should receive legal protection, as a part of every attractive landscape the visitor beholds as he travels along the shore."

Although the bald eagle has been protected by law since 1939, there are occasional killings by unscrupulous persons. As recent as last winter, a concerned farmer in Henry County reported a dead eagle on his farm. Investigation revealed that the majestic bird had been shot. We hope the ongoing investigation will result in the arrest of the person responsible. It would be interesting to know a person's reason for killing such a beautiful bird.

We've come a long way from the time when bald eagles were killed for a bounty. Public demands have stopped the use of harmful chemicals. Continued research by conservation agencies has developed breeding programs with captive birds, and the hacking of young eagles may result in more nests in our state.

Someday—soon I hope—Missourians and visitors from other states will be able to see bald eagles in the state any time of year. Because of the support of the people, our state has a wide variety of natural resources for all to enjoy. We've come a long way. We still have far to go—but we have the eagles to show us the way. □

Active eagle nests in our state are an exciting event.

Jim Rathert



Having young bald eagles come through the state is not new, but having some fledge here may happen this summer.



Saint Louis Audubon Society

TRIBUTES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

In Memory of Erna Eisendrath
Jane Stuessie
Connie Crawford

In Honor of Veda Douglas
Greenbriar Hills Garden Club

In Honor of Marshall Magner
Delmar Garden Club

In Honor of Connie Hath Crawford
The Honorary Board Members and the Board of Directors
Saint Louis Audubon Society

Contributions to Education Center

Thomas Thale
Cynthia Roth
Katherine Chambers
Connie Hath Crawford
Al Lodwick
J. Marshall Magner
Veda Douglas
Bruce Bryan
Ed and Lee Mason
S. Paul Crawford
Jerald L. Miller
Walter Liddell
Wanda G. Hill
Bertram Culver III

A very special thanks to all who participated in Beaver Days.